

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
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**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
of the
BALDWIN HILLS CONSERVANCY
MAY 18, 2012**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy was called to order by Chair Dr. Allan Boodnick, at 10:12 a.m. The meeting was held inside the Community Center at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, 4100 South La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90056.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present:

Julie Alvis, Chair Allan Boodnick, Lloyd Dixon, Vice Chair Allan Kingston, Craig Sap, Sara Amir, Sara Amir, Patrick Reynolds, Robert Jones, Jason Marshall, Marina Voskanian. Starlett Quarles and John Wicker arrived after roll call.

Members Absent:

Karen Finn, Bobbie Parks, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Joan Cardellino, Barbara Romero, and Patricia O'Toole.

Staff Present:

David McNeill, Gail Krippner, Gloria Dangerfield, and Rosana Miramontes.

III. Oaths of Office

Deputy Attorney General Rosana Miramontes administered the Oath of Office to re-appointed board member Starlett Quarles and newly appointed member Jason Marshall (designee of the State Department of Conservation).

IV. Approval of Minutes (April) – Dr. Allan Boodnick, Chair

The Chair asked if there were any comments or changes to minutes. Hearing none, he called for the vote to approve April's meeting minutes; all ayes, motion carries.

Before moving to the next agenda item, the Chair commented on Earth Day thanking David McNeil, Gail Krippner, and Sean MacAdory (who set up the arrangements for the ceremonies at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area). Three state legislators, local students, and the turnout of community members for volunteering were much appreciated. Assemblymember Holly Mitchell is working on taking Governor Brown on a tour of the park. She also affirmed pending BHC appointments she had promised to look into for Members Lloyd Dixon, Allan Kingston, and Robert Jones. Also, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy is at its ten year mark and a BHC newsletter is in the works. He asked the members to give any suggestions or contribute articles about the Conservancy to the staff.

V. Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the Executive Officer to Amend the Performance Period for Agreement #BHC07007 with the Department of Toxic Substance Control – Gail Krippner, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Ms. Krippner stated staff is asking the board to approve an extension of the agreement with the Department of Toxic Substance Control to coincide with the development of the Eastern Ridgeline project. The agreement was originally approved in 2007 by the board as three-year agreement to conduct environmental soil investigations and grading oversight. Member Kingston brought up that the resolution did not name the length of time for the performance period and felt an amendment be made in the resolution to include a time to the extension language. Member Amir suggested extending the term to five

V. Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the Executive Officer to Amend the Performance Period for Agreement #BHC07007 (Cont'd)

years. Member Kinston made a motion to approve the resolution with additional language to extend the period to at least three years. Motion seconded. Member Dixon stated that the language should state up to three years. The Chair called for the vote with the motion and the addition reads "extend the agreement for up to three years." All ayes, motion carries.

VI. **Presentation on Models for Compatible Land Use Between Urban Parks and Industrial Operations - David McNeill, Executive Officer**

Mr. McNeill's presentation consisted of examples of how other cities around the world have successfully interfaced with or converted brownfields into parklands in urban areas. Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area's first 150 acres of land purchased by the State of California at one time had actively producing oil wells on the land but is now beautiful park. Throughout Southern California there are active oil fields and Los Angeles County has a long history of oil production. With oil exploration increasing, finding ways of creating compatible urban uses adjacent to operations will be important for stakeholders. Research from the non-profit organization, Center for Land Use Interpretation, shows a wide range of examples from Bakersfield to Huntington Beach where homes, beaches, parks, wetlands and businesses continue to seek innovative solutions to successfully coexist. Member Marina Voskanian (State Lands Commission) mentioned work done at the Bolsa Chica property in the South Coast and has scheduled former Commission member Mr. Trout to speak about the wetlands project at the oil field he helped develop.

VII. **Public Comment**

Liz Gosnell, representative for Cone Fee Trust, brought up the issue that most of the projects discussed are on public land and that her land is private property and not open space. She voiced concerns about the continued inclusion of their private property and house believing they are being misrepresented as public land.

Mr. McNeill went over property ownership in the Baldwin Hills explaining the public does own surface rights to approximately 120 acres of land as well as an option for 150 acre surface conservation easement all within the BHC territory. He explained the 270 acres have active oil operations on them and there has been no negative impact on oil production activities as a result of this arrangement. Member Dixon asked if studies for consolidation operations for the publicly held lands could be done.

Laura Vlk (PXP) reiterated she agreed the land is private property and not designated open space by the County of Los Angeles. Also the projects discussed today, specifically Bolsa Chica, that was an active field (with compensation for the reserves that was left) and the company that was operating still had the rights to produce, which would be the same for PXP's field here.

VIII. **Ad Hoc Committees Report**

Member Quarles stated that she met with David McNeill earlier this week to discuss fundraising strategies working with youth. They are developing a letter of support from Nestle based on the foundation's grant criteria for working with youth. They are also developing a health and fitness grant concept for exercise enthusiasts within the Baldwin Hills Parklands.

IX. **Executive Officer Report**

Mr. McNeill asked Gail Krippner to give the project status update report. Ms. Krippner went over the project status update sheet contained in the members' package on the following: 1) La Cienega Bridge decorative fence fabrication is moving forward and she met with County Parks to view samples of fence sections; 2) DTSC and Eastern Ridge development were discussed earlier; 3) Milton Park design grant is nearly closed pending certification; 4) City of Los Angeles Norman O. Houston Park Improvements kickoff meeting was on May 1, the city is gathering their project team; 6) Baldwin Hills Parkland Habitat Restoration Program had the Earth Day volunteer event to perform invasive plant removal and to plant native species; 7) Jefferson Blvd. Streetscape and Access Improvements are in the permit stage for construction and expect to go to bid soon.

Executive Officer Report (cont'd)

Mr. McNeill then gave his report on Attachment II, which goes over the Baldwin Hills Conservancy budget and support funds. He stated that the Conservancy was on track for budgeted expenditures this year.

- Line Item, PCA 10009 remains at \$103,000 for the Park and Recreation Specialist, as the position has not been filled.
- The bond cash balance (which a number of grants operate) is adequate for current projects
- City of Culver City's is posting public announcement on the Jefferson Blvd. Streetscape and Pedestrian Improvement construction timeline
- Filed letter from the Senate Rules Committee announcing reappointment of Member Starlett Quarles and the new appointment of Jason Marshall from the Department of Conservation.
- Green Space Plan by City of Culver City will have more public meetings in July.
- On June 23, the Relay for Life cancer walk sponsored by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas' office will be held at the soccer fields.
- Spring Garden Tour and Vendor Fair in View Park will be held on Saturday, May 20.
- He will be making a presentation on the park's updates at the Baldwin Hill Village Homeowners Association's annual meeting on Saturday, May 20.

Karly Katona (Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas office) announced they are moving forward with the community outreach for the school site on Stoneview and a meeting will be held on May 30, 2012 in the evening. A flyer will be mailed out today to formally announce the meeting.

The Chair wanted to note a comment made by Member Dixon to create an ad hoc committee for developing public and private land; the committee will be chaired by Member Dixon.

X. Board Member Announcements or Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Member Jones thanked Chair Boodnick, David McNeill, Chair Boodnick, and Member Guiney, on their great work on the board appointment cycle to ensure that the Baldwin Hills Conservancy be staffed with the wonderful candidates and appointees.

Member Reynolds stated discussions of Culver City's activities in conjunction with the Baldwin Hills Conservancy focused on the Park to Playa Trail. They recently met with MRCA and the preliminary plans alignments are in review. The Jefferson crosswalk and signal at the BHSO are moving forward with a contract awarded and the plans approved. The North East Trees/Culver City Green Space plan will be reviewed by the advisory committee in June.

Newly appointed member, Jason Marshall, Chief Deputy Director for the State Department of Conservation, stated their department plans to bring to the conservancy their perspective on oil field operations. Within their department is the Division of Oil Gas and Geothermal Resources who are the regulators and permittees of well construction of any oil and gas wells in the State. They have people who can come and speak on technical, as well as bring in people to talk about well construction. On June 11, they will have a workshop in Culver City Chambers on the practice of hydraulic fracturing; more information can be found on their website: www.conservation.ca.gov.

Member Kingston congratulated David McNeill, Gail Krippner, and the City of Culver City for really getting on the Jefferson Streetscape project and he also asked Member Marshall if they could bring someone to an upcoming meeting to speak on slant drilling.

Member Dixon thanked Chair Boodnick and David McNeill for getting the board appointments process moving and conveyed thanks to Member Marshall regarding the expertise his department will bring to the conservancy board and he looks forward to working with him.

Member Quarles announced her family would be hosting President Obama in View Park on Thursday, June 7, 2012. Anyone who is interested in obtaining more information on the fundraiser event, please contact her. She also mentioned her father, who is the president of the Bedford Group and their project

on Santa Rosalia and Stocker (condos), contributed to the Quimby funds that will be used to do some of the Norman O. Houston park improvements.

Board Announcements (Cont'd)

Member Sap thanked Karly Katona (Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas office) for making the change in operations of the Stocker Corridor, which will now be operated by the County of Los Angeles. Work is being expedited to address the high traffic use of the State Park at the top of the hill and Hetzler Road and the new trail enhancements completed in April have been a success. Phase two of the Malibu Lagoon restoration project will start June 1. In response to Mr. McNeill's question of work on the Stocker Corridor trail, he stated the County is re-aligning the trail in the lower area and the work should be completed today; and State Parks will be doing the weed abatement along the trail.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business brought before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Approved:

Dr. Allan Boodnick
Chairman